

The TABOR TIMES

Newsletter - August 2015

The purpose of the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park is to improve and/or help maintain Mt. Tabor Park for the benefit of individuals, organizations and the Park Bureau; to identify and help solve problems; to participate in park planning projects. We work with the Park Bureau, the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association and other community and park user groups to monitor park use and operation, to support effective maintenance of the park, and to help in the successful implementation of the parks goals and vision as stated in the Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan.



SOLVE Award Granted to Weed Warriors

-Gayle Marechal

The friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors can add another achievement to an already impressive list. On July 10, Weed Warriors was awarded the SOLVE Citizenship Award in the Community Group category at a beer and wine tasting and dinner at the World Forestry Center in Washington Park. Mary Kinnick accepted the award on behalf of Weed Warriors, and Alexa Todd, Weed Warriors Volunteer Coordinator, said a few words as well. Also attending the ceremony were Susan Hawes, a Nature Stewardship Coordinator with PP&R, and Bing Wong and Gayle

Marechal, who are volunteer crew leaders with Weed Warriors.

SOLVE was founded by Governor Tom McCall and other like-minded leaders in 1969 "to improve the environment of Oregon and build a legacy of stewardship." The SOLVE Citizenship Awards have been given out for the past twenty-one years. To learn more about SOLVE go to <http://solveoregon.org/> and check out Weed Warriors at <https://www.facebook.com/FMTP.WeedWarriors>. Volunteers are always needed!



Front row from left: Mary Kinnick (holding award), Alexa Todd, Susan Hawes; Back row from left: Bing Wong, Gayle Marechal, Quentin Bauer (Statewide Program Director for SOLVE)

From the Co-chairs – Mary Kinnick and Beau Russell



On behalf of the Board, we would like to express our appreciation for the continued support of our members, with special thanks for the generous giving of some members' donations above and beyond basic membership dues. Because of this generosity, the Board is able to consider funding a number of park improvement projects. We thank our members for trusting us to manage and spend these funds wisely.

A few notable 2015 highlights so far:

- The award winning Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors worked in collaboration with PP&R and BES to remove invasive plant species and do habitat restoration. As of the end of June, they logged a formidable 1036 volunteer hours.
- Since opening in October 2011, the Visitor Center continues to exceed all expectations by having

over 20,000 visitors. During 2015 the center utilized eighteen different volunteers (including a Central Catholic High School student) who donated a total of 467 volunteer hours.

- The Foot Patrol continued to keep the park a safe and clean place while tallying 422 volunteer hours through June.
- Re-election of Board members Beau Russell and Gayle Marechal to new three-year terms.
- Gayle Marechal and Martrese White have teamed up to edit and produce our Newsletter.
- Martrese White redesigned our FMTP Website. Check us out at www.taborfriends.org

Project Funding

Thanks in part to your dues and donations, we funded and installed a new bench outside the

Visitor Center (see pg. 12), and a much-needed drinking fountain (with bottle refiller!) was installed between the restrooms near Visitor Center (see image above). Also, we were able to increase funding for our part-time Weed Warrior Stewardship Coordinator.

A final note: Although Portland Parks & Recreation budget situation has improved this past year, the park is slow to recover after five years of decreases and continues to feel the effects of these decreases. Consequently, FMTP volunteers are serving an increasingly critical role in supporting the park's well-being. We are always looking for more volunteers. So, if you are interested in joining us, please contact one of our coordinators: Mary Kinnick (Weed Warriors), Dave Hillman (Visitor Center), or Beau Russell (Foot Patrol) at 503-512-0816 or taborfriends@gmail.com

Join the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park at the Annual Potluck Picnic

Tuesday, August 11, 2015 • 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. • Picnic Area A
Bring a dish to share. Drinks and tableware will be provided.
Lots of great door prizes!



Treasurer's Report

-Jason Doerflein

The Friends of Mount Tabor Park organization had another strong financial year. As membership contributions remained strong, we also saw larger contributions coming from the annual Tar 'n' Trail 5k/10k event as well as Warner Pacific College helping with the cost of printing brochures. Donations and purchases made at the Mt. Tabor Park Visitor Center also contribute to the FMTP proceeds.

As regards to expenditures, FMTP partnered with Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) to install a new bench at the park's main restrooms. Our organization will continue to collaborate with the PP&R to set priorities for funding ongoing park projects. As with previous years, FMTP continues to help pay for movies and concerts in the park as well as the coordinator who manages our volunteer group, Weed Warriors, that actively works towards ridding sections of the park of invasive plant species.



*FMTP Treasurer,
Jason Doerflein*



Update: Mt. Tabor Park Reservoirs

-Mary Kinnick

This spring and summer have been a very intensive time for the future of the park's reservoirs. The Portland Water Bureau submitted its reservoir disconnect plan to the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC). The Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA) submitted testimony calling for a number of significant changes to the Water Bureau plan. The Commission voted to approve the Water Bureau proposal but with the addition of several significant "conditions" that would need to be met, including: 1. maintaining water in the reservoirs as an essential aesthetic condition in keeping with the status of the park and its reservoirs on the National Historic Registry, and 2. funding and carrying out a plan to preserve and maintain the reservoirs and related structures. The Water Bureau appealed the Commission's decision to the Portland City Council asking that its original plan be adopted. As a result, the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association also filed an appeal with the Portland City Council calling for changes to the Water Bureau plan.

City Council held a public hearing on May 28, where spokespersons for the Water Bureau, the MTNA,

and several members of the HLC offered testimony. This was followed by oral testimony from over forty individuals, including myself, on behalf of the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Board. The public was given another week to submit written testimony to the Council. Several Council members urged the Water Bureau and MTNA to get together to see if they could work out their differences and come up with a joint resolution for consideration by the Council.

At the June 25, Council meeting the two parties reported they had met six times for a total of twelve hours. The MTNA reported that while there was agreement on some major issues and on some details, several major issues remained. More meetings subsequently took place between the two parties, and a joint resolution was reached and posted July 11, on the Portland City Council Meeting Agenda Site for Public Review. The resolution spells out an agreement which ensures that water will remain in the reservoirs at historic levels (as close to 85% as possible) and mandates that City Council allocate \$4 million over a four-year period, beginning fiscal year 2016-2017, and implement priority repair,

maintenance and preservation needs as spelled out in the 2009 Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic Structures Report. Additionally, consideration must be given in a future budget to allocate \$1.5 million to replace non-historic lighting at reservoirs one and five.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly, the resolution gives the MTNA a seat at the table with the Water Bureau to set preservation and maintenance priorities and to monitor progress. A Joint Semi-Annual Report to City Council must be prepared that documents compliance with the resolution.

On July 15, the Council met to consider and take public testimony on the resolution. The Joint Resolution was approved by Council by a four to one vote. Accolades are due especially to MTNA Board members Stephanie Stewart and John Laursen and MTNA colleagues for their long-hours and dedication in the effort to preserve and maintain these iconic reservoirs after they are disconnected as a source of our water supply (scheduled for completion by December 31, 2015).

Caldera Plaque

-Gayle Marechal

A few feet to the left of the stairs leading into the caldera at Mt. Tabor Park is a plaque embedded in a rock structure. This plaque was installed in 1952 by the Geological Society of the Oregon Country. According to the Geological Society's newsletter, the plaque was placed "with a great deal of pride" and was the "fulfillment of a long-felt wish." The Geological Society unveiled the plaque at an annual picnic in the park on August 8, 1952, and attendees heard a short talk by Dr. J. C. Stevens about the geology of the crater and surrounding area.

The plaque reads, "Through the fiery throat of this volcano exploded glowing cinders which, cooling, formed the ground on which you now stand. Younger than the hundreds of volcanoes which poured out their lavas in the foothills of Mt. Hood, this cinder cone has withstood the ravages of time to become Mt. Tabor. It now stands peacefully in the City of Roses, the only major city in the United States that has a volcano within its borders." (Note: volcanoes also exist in Bend [Pilot Butte], Honolulu [Diamond Head], and Jackson, MS [Jackson Volcano].)



Below these words is the following: "This tablet was installed by the Geological Society of the Oregon Country August 8, 1952." Stop by and check out this little bit of history in the park, and for more information on the geology of Mt. Tabor Park, pick up our latest brochure, available in the Visitor Center and on our new web site.

2015 Membership (So Far!)

-Suzanne McCarthy

Currently there are eighty-nine paid members of Friends of Mt. Tabor Park. Although most members are private citizens, several of our most faithful contributors are professional establishments. See these local businesses listed under the "Partners" tab on our web site, and please thank them for their generosity.

Those who donate more than the minimum \$15 are recognized in special categories named for trees. At the end of the year, we will list them all. Since people continue to contribute throughout the calendar year, only the current totals are given below. At the end of the year, contributors will be listed individually.

Linden tree group (\$25 - \$49.99) - 15
Red Leaf Maple (\$50.00 - \$99.99) - 26
Red Alder (\$100.00 - \$249.99) - 17
Madrone (\$250.00 - \$499.99) - 2

It has been several years since the organization decided to use the calendar year as the dues-paying year. Most members have made the switch successfully. Some continue to pay on their own schedules, and of course there are always newcomers who join throughout the year, making the total a constantly changing number.

Meet the Member: Terry Jenness

-John McLaren

Here's what FMTP Co-chair Mary Kinnick has to say about Terry Jenness, a seemingly tireless volunteer who says he enjoys the "camaraderie" of working on good causes with like-minded people.

"Terry personifies the idea of volunteering as a service. Terry for years has been helping out with all aspects of Friends of Mt. Tabor Park service activities. He comes out for last Saturday Weed Warrior habitat restoration events, walks Foot Patrols, and assists with special events and projects."

Mt. Tabor is just a part of Terry's volunteerism. He also helps deliver food to the needy through his service to Meals on Wheels and the St. Francis Conference. On one recent trip from the Oregon Food Bank, he hauled 645 pounds of food for distribution from a food room maintained by the St. Francis Conference, which is associated with St Francis of Assisi Church, and has been as part of its mission providing food and sometimes supplemental utility and rent payments to keep struggling people in their homes.

Terry also has been an enormous help to this writer, who is hobbled by bad balance and terrible hearing. Once a week he drives me to Fred Meyer – I no longer have a car – and on other errands that can prove formidable in my sorry condition. Terry's only payment for all this? A cheap lunch.

Terry figures he puts in about fifty hours a month on volunteer activities but doesn't consider it a big deal. He shuns the spotlight. "To imagine Terry taking a selfie is indeed unimaginable! He actively works to deflect praise that comes his way," says Mary Kinnick.

"I just support the people that run organizations that serve a cause. I do it to pay back and because I can. You meet so many nice people and it softens the aging process by being productive," says Terry.

A native Portlander, Terry as a youngster rode bikes with friends to Mt Tabor. Even then he "enjoyed the park immensely." He says he and his family were helped by many people over the years. "I like to repay them for what they have done for us by serving others. Some people contribute money to causes, some help people directly. I like the interaction with people."

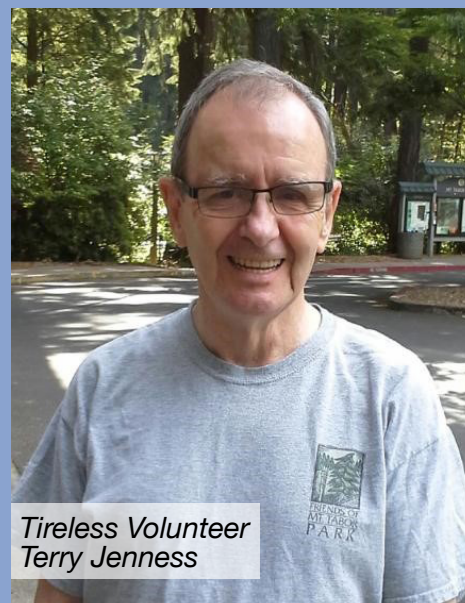
He attended the Madeleine School, Jesuit High, and Gonzaga University. After college he spent seventeen years managing general stores in three remote areas of Alaska – Bethel, St. Mary's, and Barrow. The stores sold a mix of food and non-food products. Terry began and ended his Alaska service at a Swanson's in Bethel which apparently had something for everyone -- a True Value store, furniture, snow machines, deli, clothing, and furniture, much in the manner of Fred Meyers here. The store served the town of Bethel and villages up and down the Kuskokwim River. Customers would arrive by boat and plane in the summer and by snow machine or plane in the winter. Groceries were shipped in by plane all year and by barge from Seattle four times during the winter.

When he retired from the grocery business, he returned to Portland to assist in the care of his brother who has early onset Alzheimer's. Terry also looked for opportunities to fill out his retirement, and he joined the Foot Patrol in 2009 at the suggestion of a neighbor.

FMTP Co-chair Beau Russell catalogues Terry's accomplishments. "Rarely a week goes by that Terry doesn't participate in a foot patrol. He has consistently participated in the Foot Patrol's efforts in helping with the Summer Concert Series. Terry was also an active team member in the tree stake identification project, as well as our trail marker maintenance project for Park and Rec's Park Diem event. If there's a task that needs to be done, you can depend on Terry to show up and give his best effort."

Summing up his extensive volunteer experience, Terry says, "In the whole scheme of things these are small things, but I like the camaraderie of working together with friends."

Terry has a son, daughter, and grandson who live near him in SE Portland. His son John works as a mortgage broker and daughter Laura teaches at the Ivy School, a tuition-free public charter Montessori school where attendance is lottery driven. Grandson Charlie will be a junior at Evergreen College in Olympia, WA.



Mt. Tabor Park Visitor Center

-Dave Hillman

The volunteers in the Visitor Center are often asked, especially by some of our more frequent guests, “What’s new?” We usually do have something new, and here are a few of the latest items that you should come see and/or purchase. Andy Haliburton has three new photo note cards entitled “Mt Hood,” “Historic Light Fixture and Firs,” and “Last Rays Diffused.” We have another new artist, Georgina Ottaviano, with reproductions of her paintings on four post cards entitled “View of Mt Tabor Park,” “The Flowers of Mt Tabor,” “The Birds of Mt Tabor,” and “The Dogs of Mt Tabor Park.” (See photo below.) Her cards and Andy’s photo cards are worth a trip to the Visitor Center. We also have many new and/or updated brochures on the Benson Bubblers, Smart Trips in Portland by Bicycle or Ten Toes Express Walks. Another updated brochure is entitled “How to Reserve a Picnic Site,” and then we have the seasonal brochures on the Parks Summer Concert and Movie Schedule as well as the “Parks Summer Camp Guide.”

Hot off the press, a new brochure entitled “The Geological History of Mt Tabor Park” is the result of a collaboration between the FMTP and members of the Geological Society of The Oregon Country. The members who worked on this brochure have really been most helpful, and we appreciate their effort and support. Download the new brochure from our website, or pick up one at the Visitor Center.

The Visitor Center reached a milestone this summer. By early June, over 20,000 visitors had come to the Visitor Center since its opening in November 2011, proof that Mt. Tabor Park is a busy and well-visited park, with visitors coming from not only Portland, but from all over the United States and the world. Come see us, and take time to enjoy the new bench just outside the Visitor Center door.



Habitat Matters

-Bing Wong, FMTP Board Member

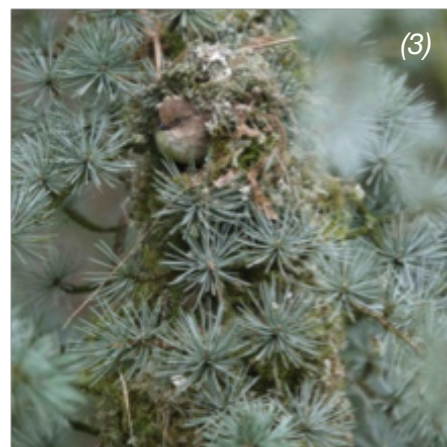
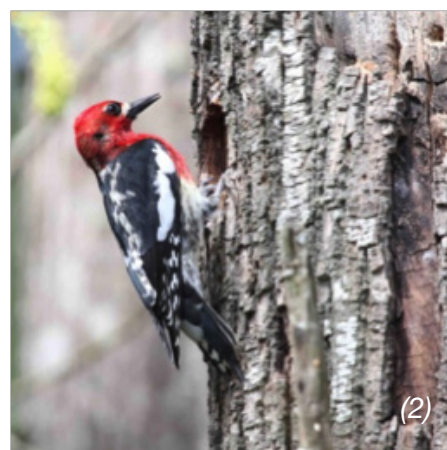
I have lived in the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood near Mt. Tabor Park since 1992 and have watched the birds' habitat change over the years. Over time, invasive plants throughout the park have limited the diversity and number of birds using the park for food, shelter, and nesting, and a reliable water source other than the large open reservoirs is a missing element in the park. However, with park maintenance, the Tabor to the River project, and stewardship work by the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors, habitat has changed dramatically for the better. Large swaths of invasive plant species that reduce water adsorption have been removed and replaced with native plants providing a more bird-friendly habitat.



One of two bald eagles that visited the park in April, photographed by Bing Wong.

I took the pictures for this article while using the network of trails and while sitting on benches and in picnic areas in the park. The pictures provide a look at various birds and habitat uses for nesters and winged visitors to the park. The Chestnut-backed Chickadee (1) was removing material from a large snag next to a trail through a slit in the bark. The park staff is keeping dead or dying trees in place for wildlife and only removing them for the safety of the public. A partially dying maple tree presented an opportunity for a Red-breasted Sapsucker (2) to work for days excavating a cavity. The bird also used a nearby tree for drilling sap wells. A Bushtit pair (3) built their hanging nest at eye level in the large Blue Atlas Cedar next to Reservoir #5. Bushtits are common nesters throughout the park. They build nests commonly referred to as "dirty socks." A common hummingbird now, but rare in early 1980's, the Anna's Hummingbirds (4, next page) are numerous throughout the park all year and build small cup nests. The female on the nest was near the playground next to the road heading up into the park.

Many bird species make stopovers in the park during migrations to feed and build up fat reserves before moving on to their nesting grounds. The Black-throated Gray Warbler (6) is looking for caterpillars in a big maple tree. Diversity of tree types helps birds find food as some bird species prefer conifers and others deciduous trees. Some species feed on the fruits of a variety of trees. Other species prefer bushes and brushy areas and stay close to the ground much of the time to feed.



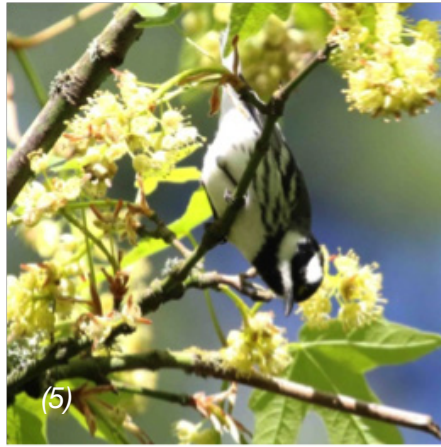
I was lucky to see and photograph the Bald Eagle perched on branch not far from a trail (see photo at left). Two eagles had stopped in the park, likely to rest or inspect the habitat.

In late spring and early summer, the nesting birds' chicks fledge. A Great-horned Owl chick was at a base of a tree not far from

cont'd.



(4)



(5)



(6)

benches and picnic tables (6). Many chicks will leave the nest before they can fly, and parents will continue to feed them wherever they may end up. Owls may not be able to fly when they leave the nest, but they already have well developed feet and legs. They will jump and climb on tree branches near the ground or jump from branch to branch and occasionally fall to the ground, all part of maturing. Keeping dogs on leash in the park where required is important to the survival of young birds as is people staying on roads and trails and out of natural areas during nesting season.

Mt. Tabor Park is unique among Portland's large network of parks. Many parks are filled with playgrounds, ball fields, and recreation areas, while Mt. Tabor is a mixed use park with lots of natural areas. This extinct volcano is an island habitat in a sea of urban development, making it special for the bird community.

Summer is Here!

-Gayle Marechal

Those of us who live near Mt. Tabor Park know summer has truly arrived when the annual Tuesday evening concerts in the park begin each July. There is no better setting for good music, good eating, and good times with friends than the caldera at Mt. Tabor Park.

This year's concert series began with some spirited music by Freak Mountain Ramblers, who entertained a lively overflow crowd on a warm July Tuesday evening. The rest of the lineup included Jacob & the Bridge City Crooners, Bloco Alegria, and Lisa Mann & Her Really Good Band.

If you weren't able to attend any of this year's concerts, we hope you're able to join us in 2016, if not as a general spectator, then maybe as a FMTP volunteer. We are always in need of assistance with setup/teardown, directing traffic, selling pies (see right) answering questions, and just being a FMTP presence. There's no better way to celebrate summer!





Weed Warriors Continue to Grow in 2015

-Alexa Todd (Stewardship Coordinator,
Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors)

The steadily increasing strong support from Weed Warrior crew leaders has been exceptional! Crew leader trainings were held in February and March, and in an effort to increase species knowledge, the "Crew Leader Manual" was updated with additional information on invasive species in Mt. Tabor Park. This year there are a total of twenty crew leaders including nine new and eleven continuing (see below).

The additional crew leaders are critical because the volunteer counts so far have been record breaking. More volunteers, eighty-five, participated in April than any other single Weed Warrior event! Another large group of seventy-four volunteers participated in

May (above photo), nearly double the average number of people who have attended in May since 2010. In addition to the large volume, there has been greater diversity among volunteers.

One possible reason for the increasing support from volunteers is the educational component of the Weed Warrior program, which has enabled strong partnerships with schools, including Portland Community College (PCC), Warner Pacific College, and Portland State University. Links to education have attracted involvement from many students and others interested in the park. In March, the midway educational break focused on teaching plant identification. After the break, a

volunteer enthusiastically shared that he was able to spot and pull-up several invasive cherry starts after a sample was passed around. Students from PCC who are starting a Sustainability Club were inspired by the May event and expressed interest in planning service projects at Mt. Tabor Park.

Recognizing the Weed Warriors' service to the environment and community, SOLVE awarded the Weed Warriors the 2015 SOLVE Citizenship Award for a Community Organization! (See page one.) This statewide SOLVE award was presented at SOLVE's Summerfest on July 10 at the World Forestry Center where there was beer tasting, dinner, a raffle, and live music.



Weed Warrior crew leaders
at the April event.

New Crew Leaders

Ada Garcia
Bing Wong
Brady Hall
Britny Belcher
Deb Hanson
Mikey Bishop
Rachel Brooks
Joven Pacheco
Kim Guess

Continuing Leaders

Alexie McNerthney
Brad Copenhaver
Chris Olinger
Darvel Lloyd
Ellen Simmons
Gayle Marechal
Jessica Baker-Williams
Lise Gervais
Mary Kinnick
Monique Leslie
Zosia Lynch

FMTP Foot Patrol

—Beau Russell

Our Foot Patrol volunteers continue working to keep the park clean and safe. I want to thank the members who, due to their sharing of tasks, have made the Foot Patrol a success: Mary and Bob McWilliams and Pat Morgan have provided space in their homes for our meetings. Ellen Simmons has coordinated orientation and training for our new members while also maintaining the hut. Dave Hillman has continued his work as the Foot Patrol Organizational Contact Person. Dave has also coordinated our volunteer efforts for the Summer Concerts in the Park. John McLaren continues to write bi-annual articles for the FMTP Newsletter (“Meet Your Members”). And finally, thanks to all our members who have showed up for patrols, assisted at events, and supported the effort to keep Mt. Tabor Park the gem it is.

Foot Patrol Stats for 2015 (January through June)

Total number of members	49
Total number of foot patrols	86
Total hours for foot patrol members	422
On patrol	277
Meetings and Administration	145

Looking Ahead at 2015

We are fortunate to have eight new members this year, which will help us continue working with PP&R Security, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, and the Portland Police Bureau to reduce car prowling incidents and vandalism in the park. We firmly believe our patrolling efforts, coupled with our policy of observing, recording, and reporting incidents in the park over the past year, have contributed to the decline in these incidents.

We are always looking for new Foot Patrol members, so if you are interested in joining us please contact Beau Russell at 503-512-0816 or taborfriends@gmail.com.

Challenges for 2015:

The elimination of on-site Water Bureau Security continues to pose challenges. While we have been successful in recruiting new members, getting existing members to choose to actively patrol continues to be difficult. This is an issue that needs to be addressed as the Foot Patrol continues trying to be ready to respond, as we are able, and work in partnership with Portland Parks to help keep Mt Tabor Park a desirable and safe destination.

Many members helped clean up the mess in the park after 4th of July.



Friends of Mt. Tabor Park 5k Walk/Run and 10k Run

-Anne Crispino-Taylor

The fourth annual Friends of Mt. Tabor Park “Tar ‘n’ Trail” 5k walk/run and 10K run will be held on Sunday, October 11, to celebrate autumn in the park. Prices for the races remain the same at \$25.00 for the 10K, \$15.00 for the 5K, and \$5.00 for kids twelve and under entered in the 5k. The race is a fundraising event to benefit The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park. Over the past three years the race has raised over \$4,500 for our organization!

Mt. Tabor Park has a well-designed forested trail system consisting of three trails—the Red Trail, the Green Trail, and the Blue Trail—that circumnavigate Mt. Tabor. The Red Trail is a one mile loop running counter-clockwise; the Green Trail is a 1.7-mile loop running clockwise; and the Blue Trail is a three mile loop that also runs counter-clockwise. The 10K utilizes all three trails, while the 5K will utilize the blue loop.

The 10K race begins at 9:00 a.m., and the 5K race begins at 9:05. For check-in and same-day registration, please come to the parking lot near the caldera between 8:00 and 8:45 am. After the race, mingle with other runners and enjoy post-race snacks generously donated by local businesses. There will also be a raffle after the race for other donated items.

Please come join us for a fun run (or walk) around the park!

To register in advance online go to www.athletpath.com/mt-tabor-tar-n-trail/2015-10-11

For mail in registration and to learn more about the race including route maps, go to www.runannie.net or call Anne at (521) 951-0828.

New Bench at Visitor Center

-Mary Kinnick



Member donations have made possible a recent installation of a new park bench in front of the Visitor Center. The bench is dedicated to all who visit the park. A plaque is inscribed with the words of John Muir: “In every walk in nature one receives far more than he seeks.” Indeed so! After a walk, a run, a bike ride, come and enjoy the bench and check out the Visitor Center if you haven’t already.

"Music washes away from the
soul the dust of everyday life."
-Berthold Auerbach

PLEASING PARK PIANO

-Martrese White

Mt. Tabor Park was chosen as one of several locations for a fun, public service project that brought music to the masses via refurbished pianos. From July 2-12, a stunning black and gold piano had a home at the summit for all to enjoy. This fun, interactive musical project is the brainchild of Piano Push Play, whose mission is to make pianos available to anyone who wants to play them. They collaborate with local piano companies to rescue and restore old pianos that are still in great shape and place them in public spaces each summer for all to enjoy the experience of making music. Passersby of all musical levels help create music in public spaces. When summer is over, the pianos find permanent homes in schools and community centers.

Sponsored by Portland Code School, our park's "Haydn" piano was decorated by the design firm Splash Worldwide, and featured an eagle-eye view of the Willametter River dividing east and west Portland. The bench top was decorated with an outline of Oregon and a compass with the words "Get Lost in Portland" (below right). Fitting for the low-light nighttime park summit, the finishing touch was a customized lantern with a photo of Union Station's iconic "Go By Train" clocktower.

On July 6, park guests were treated to a beautiful late afternoon concert by local pianist Asher Fulero (above), who invited spectators to join him on the bench for duets and singing. It was a beautiful evening, and we hope the project will return in 2016.



Donation from *Grimm* not Grim at All!

-Mary Kinnick

After several days of filming an episode of the TV series *Grimm* in the park, the producers of the series made a \$1,000 donation to Friends of Mt. Tabor Park! Staff with Portland Parks and Recreation indicated that the *Grimm* crew did a great job cleaning up after the shoot.



A *Grimm* scene filmed in Mt. Tabor Park. Photo by: Scott Green/NBC

Season 4 episode 13 titled “Heartbreaker” aired on April 3, 2015, and involved bicycles racing down a Mt. Tabor trail—hopefully not the Green Trail where bikes are disallowed! Of course the episode included a dead body discovered down a slope among the Doug firs and shrubs (see photo above), a victim of one of the shows mutant characters! From what I’ve learned, giving back to the community is central to the *Grimm* crews and actors. Thank you to all involved with the series for working responsibly and for the generous donation.

For a synopsis of the episode, please see this recap by Mt. Tabor Park fan and *Oregonian* writer Kristi Turnquist: www.oregonlive.com/movies/2015/04/grimm_season_4_episode_16_a_cy.html

2015 Winter Meeting and Program

-Gayle Marechal

On March 19, FMTP held its annual meeting and program. The business portion of the meeting, conducted by Martrese White, included a vote on some additions to the by-laws and the re-election of Gayle Marechal and Beau Russell to the board. The Friend of the Year Award presentation followed. This year’s recipient is Mary Kinnick, who was recognized for her many contributions to FMTP. Among her many accomplishments are the establishment of an advisory committee for the Weed Warriors, her service as board chair as well as board co-chair (a position she currently holds), the acquisition of funding for the Weed Warrior’s Volunteer Coordinator Alexa Todd, and tireless work on behalf of the park.

The program that followed was a talk by Kaitlin Lovell of the Bureau of Environmental Services. She spoke on how Portland is preparing for climate change, the effects of climate on Mt. Tabor Park, and what individuals can do as the climate of the area changes.

Special thanks to all FMTP members in attendance and to Suzanne McCarthy for coordinating the wide variety of refreshments.



Gayle Marechal presents Mary Kinnick with her much-deserved award.

Interview with Tony (Tuna) Cole*

FMTP: I know you have several self-published books out, so tell us a little about how your writing career got started and what prompted you to publish your own works?

Tony: Yes, I have self-published four books since 2009. This last version of *Shards* (summer 2014) is an expansion and reorganization of its first iteration from 2010. Prior to life on Mt. Tabor, I lived in Japan for over ten years, teaching English. When that experience began to feel a little stale, my wife and I moved to our Tabor home in 1995. I decided to go back to PSU for a Master's Degree in applied linguistics, which was a huge challenge but also incredibly stimulating, and within six months after its completion, I had written perhaps a third of the content of *Shards* in addition to launching into writing, *Ragnarok*, a speculative fiction projecting an abrupt descent for humanity/civilization based on overpopulation, resource depletion, and climate change, using the old Norse saga of the "Fall of the Gods" as metaphor. After the first edition of *Shards*, I wrote and edited a history of the commune (*Voyage of the Yellow Submarine*) I helped found and maintain for two and a half years in Eugene in the late 1960's. Thirteen survivors of the commune offer perspectives of that experience as well as critiques of the Vietnam War from a counterculture perspective. A kind of "gonzo" history, if you will.

Self-publication is not for the faint of heart, but online sources like Lulu.com offer all the help you are apt to need. The brutal truth in publishing these years is, if you have an agent or know a published author from one of the handful of publishing houses, you stand a chance of someone reading your manuscript. My attempt to get *Ragnarok* published

the right, as many other writers have done, to call myself whatever I want. Why Tuna as my "feather name"? Well, Tony has two has syllables; the first one is "to"; the second one, "ni." Tuna has two syllables, you get the idea. Besides, what's not to like about tuna?

FMTP: Tell us a little about this recent collection, *Shards*.



was frustrating, and after several months, I chose to self-publish.

FMTP: What's the origin of the pseudonym Tuna Cole?

Tony: In a "piece" of *Shards*, I talk about feeling dissatisfied, bored with the name, Tony. This led to some confidence in adopting a different name. The books I've published are of me, so I claim

Tony: As the name suggests, *Shards* is a collection of psychic pieces: some delicate, sensitive, whimsical things, and some unrepentant rants as to the state of human affairs. I've tucked away little scribbles of thoughts, puzzlements, and poetic attempts for over fifty years. This edition contains a semi-autobiographical account of a disgruntled geriatric,

several new poems, and some prose pieces (e.g., “Letter to President Obama,” and an account of my significant bear experiences, “Tuna and the Three Bears”).

It’s interesting to have discovered a literary voice so late in life, as if it had been gestating—or is it festering?—all this time. Note, I make no claims as to quality of the voice, only that it asserts a presence in my life these years.

FMTP: You gave a reading from *Shards* last winter. You’ve also given other readings from your books. How have these readings been received? And how would you describe your writing style?

Tony: I must have presented my books at least a half dozen times since the arrival of *Ragnarok*. I seem to have cultivated eight or ten supporters over the years, and for them, I am hugely grateful. I imagine most writers believe they have a larger audience than their immediate companions and associates, however. Fortunately, I have not been so foolish as to expect anything resembling “fame and fortune.”

My writing style is Write it down! I believe if you have something to say, you face two basic steps toward being a “writer.” 1. You must make an initial account of that inspirational nub, that tiny pebble in your mental shoe. Via pencil and paper or word processor get it down. 2. Accept that you will work that initial thought over and over. Editing is where the work and most of the creativity occurs. Poking a notion here, prodding it there. Giving the Muse permission to take

this rough curiosity to whatever direction/dimension she wants. Then I sift and polish some more. Most of the tiny changes I make extend and improve the content of the writing; those that don’t, never make it to the printed page. Over days, weeks, months, through very different moods and mind-sets, that crude kernel begins to be something your internal compass/navigator tells you is worthwhile.

FMTP: You are a longtime resident of the Mt. Tabor neighborhood and have been active with Friends of Mt. Tabor for many years. Has your residence in the neighborhood or your involvement in FMTP in any way affected or influenced your writing?

Tony: At some level we are all affected by our environment. I am grateful to live in a neighborhood where many folks care about and participate in local events, particularly Mt. Tabor Park. Significantly this park promotes the interaction of many people, an important human component. Yes, indeed, my participation in FMTP/Weed Warriors has influenced my writing—not to mention the three or four pieces in *Shards* that are explicitly about Mt. Tabor.

FMTP: What do you envision as the next step in your writing and what’s ahead for Tuna Cole?

Tony: My interests are pretty eclectic. I continue to explore, and sometimes write about, a wide spectrum of ideas, but I’m currently working on a project about my life in Japan. I don’t mind admitting I’m somewhat intimidated by the prospect. I think I have some insights into that enormously

complicated country. I’m kind of inviting the cross-cultural stereotype of the brash, audacious, ego-driven American, presuming to have special knowledge of this 2000-year-old culture, based on ten years as a local teacher. It’s a humbling task, but at seventy-four, I’m not a particularly humble man. At the same time, the challenge is exciting.

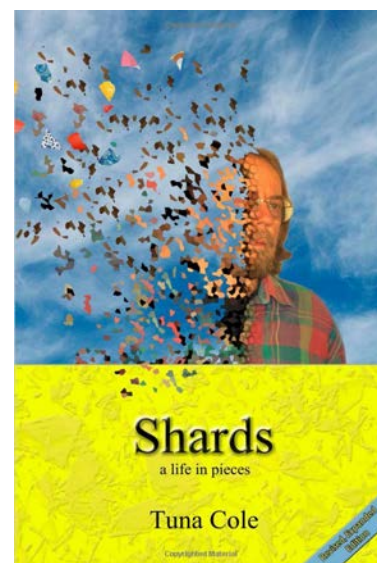
As for what else might be in the cards, I still have some wanderlust. But the years take their toll; it’s getting harder and harder just to move sometimes, let alone travel to exotic places.

FMTP: Anything else you’d like to add to this interview?

Tony: Support your local artists!

*Tony (Tuna) Cole is a longtime Mt Tabor resident who has been active in Mt. Tabor Park for many years in a variety of ways, most notably with the removal of invasive species. Tuna has written numerous self-published books.

Note: Tuna Cole’s books are available for sale at the Visitor Center in Mt. Tabor Park, at Powell’s, and at Tuna’s readings.



MT. TABOR STAR PARTIES

-Martrese White

"Star light, star bright, the first star I see tonight. . ." Did you know the first star you see on a clear evening is our sun setting? Venus is low and bright in the sky just above the setting sun, and is often mistaken for a star. If you'd like to learn more about stars and planets and see them "up close and personal" via a high-powered telescope, local astronomer and artist Mark Seibold provides impromptu star parties on Mt. Tabor as the weather allows throughout the year, and particularly when the partial moon is in the evening sky with large planets. Passersby always enjoy looking at planets and the moon through his computer-driven Celestron Nexstar 5i Cassegrain telescope and his manual 10" Dobsonian/Newtonian telescopes as

he provides observational knowledge and learning with teaching aids, star charts, and binoculars. On occasion he'll show and discuss his large pastel art portfolio that has been published and displayed on NASA web sites over the years, artwork that was produced from observations through his telescopes. Mark is occasionally joined by members of the Rose City Astronomers Club. He usually starts at sunset around 8:30–9:30 p.m. and stays until the park gates close at 10–11 p.m.

To find out when Mark will be in the park with his telescopes, follow him on facebook – or simply keep an eye out for him around dusk on the drive in front of Reservoir No. 5.

Mark Seibold with his telescopes in the park.



The moon as seen through Mark's telescope